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SUBJECT Arms Control/On-Site Inspection

MARTIN AGRONSKY: An interesting development with the Soviet Union on the eve of the beginning again of the arms control talks. The Soviets put out a statement saying that they would accept on-site inspection, which they've always rejected. This time, of course, of civilian nuclear installations. Now --and an indication when the statement was made that it would apply to, indeed, and should be regarded as an indication of their willingness to go ahead with the arms control talks.

Is that really a significant move, in your opinion, on the part of the Soviets?

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER: I think it's a good sign, although you always have to remember that just before a negotiation the Russians are specialists at peace offensives, and this is a minor peace offensive.

I think the fact that they're willing now to contemplate on-site inspection is a sign that insisting on it, on our part, is a good thing, a good negotiating strategy.

JAMES J. KILPATRICK: It's an encouraging sign, Martin. Sure it is. But it's a long step from a nuclear electric power generating plant to inspection of nuclear arms.

AGRONSKY: But it is a breakthrough. They've never accepted any kind of on-site inspection for anything before. And we can hope that this would be...

HUGH SIDEY: They've let our scientists see it, though, Martin. Our scientists have seen a number of their facilities. And this isn't that far removed from that. We've had people in